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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

METEOROLOGICAL TOWER AT MALOYAROSLAVETS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, OBNINSK, USSR

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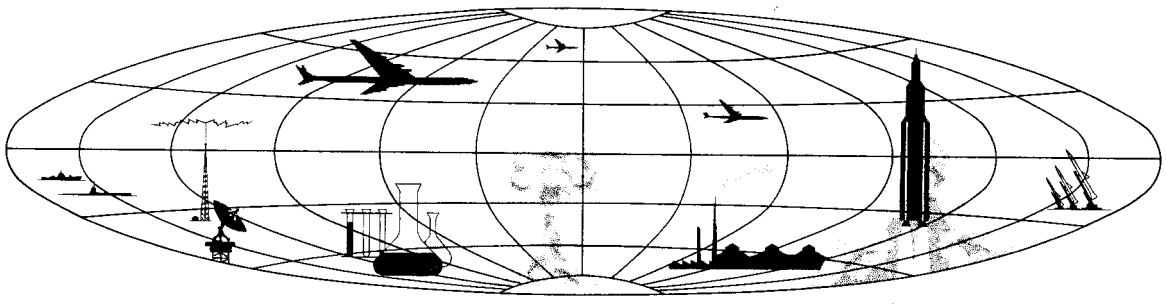

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METEOROLOGICAL TOWER AT MALOYAROSLAVETS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, OBNINSK, USSR

SUMMARY

The meteorological tower associated with the Maloyaroslavets Research Institute at Obninsk, USSR (designated in the BE as Maloyaroslavets Research Institute Obninskoye, BE [redacted] is located at 55-06-[redacted]N 36-36-[redacted]E, approximately 5.8 nautical miles (nm) northeast of the town of Maloyaroslavets and 1.2 nm north of the nuclear research institute at Obninsk, to which it is connected by road (Figure 1).

Information published in Pravda in July 1960 states that the tower is 313 meters (approximately 1,026 feet) high, and slightly less than 2.5 meters (approximately 8.2 feet) in diameter. With regard to the function of the tower, the same article says:

"Many observations are made and interesting results have been obtained concerning phenomena in the lower layer of atmosphere. The instruments used to record these phenomena are attached to long arms outside the tower so that measurements are made under natural conditions.

"It is no accident, of course, that the tower has been built near the world's first atomic electric station (AES); serious research is being conducted here in the atmosphere surrounding the AES-1. It has been established that the atomic electric station does not contaminate the atmosphere." 1/

The atomic electric station mentioned in Pravda (designated in the BE as Maloyaroslavets Nuclear Thermal Power Plant Obninskoye, [redacted] is located immediately west of the nuclear research institute, approximately 1.5 nm south-southwest of the meteorological tower (Figure 1).

DESCRIPTION AND MEASUREMENTS

The tower appears to be constructed of flanged sections, bolted or welded together. The structure supports 14 octagonal platforms, which are spaced about 75 feet apart except the upper two, which are closer together. A small support building beside the tower houses the recording devices connected to the instruments (Figure 2). The instrumentation appears to be located in or attached to the boxlike objects at the ends of the arms that extend outward from opposite corners of the platforms. Several probable anemometers are visible in Figure 3. It is not possible to identify any of the other instruments, but studies of the lower atmosphere would call for any or all of the following: psychrometers, barometers or barographs, radiometric devices, air sampling devices, and thermometers. The tower is stabilized by steel guy wires, and is said to have a circular office in the upper part, reached by elevator. 1/

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FIGURE 1. METEOROLOGICAL TOWER AND ASSOCIATED INSTALLATIONS AT OBNINSK, USSR, [redacted]

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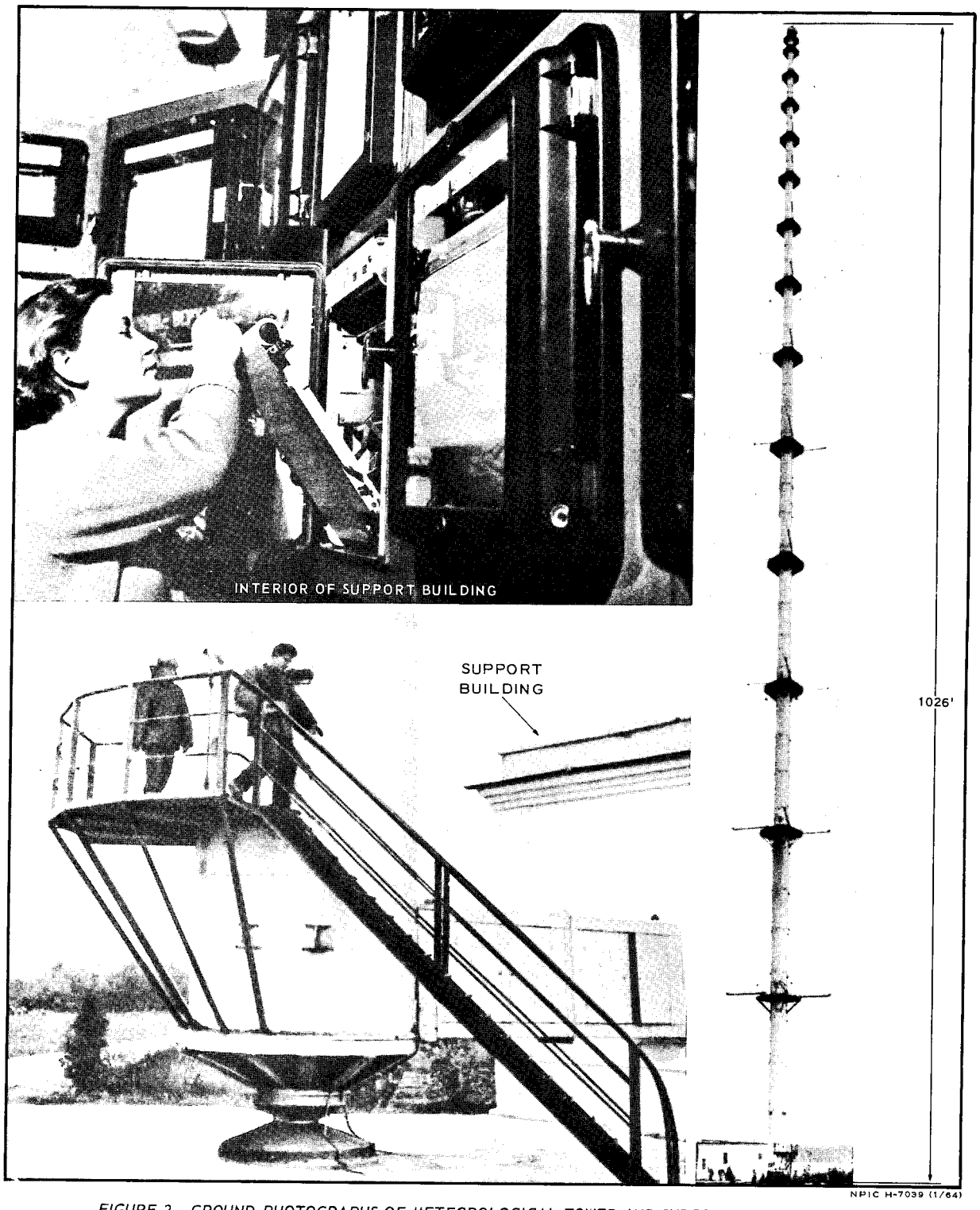

FIGURE 2. GROUND PHOTOGRAPHS OF METEOROLOGICAL TOWER AND SUPPORT BUILDING, 1960.

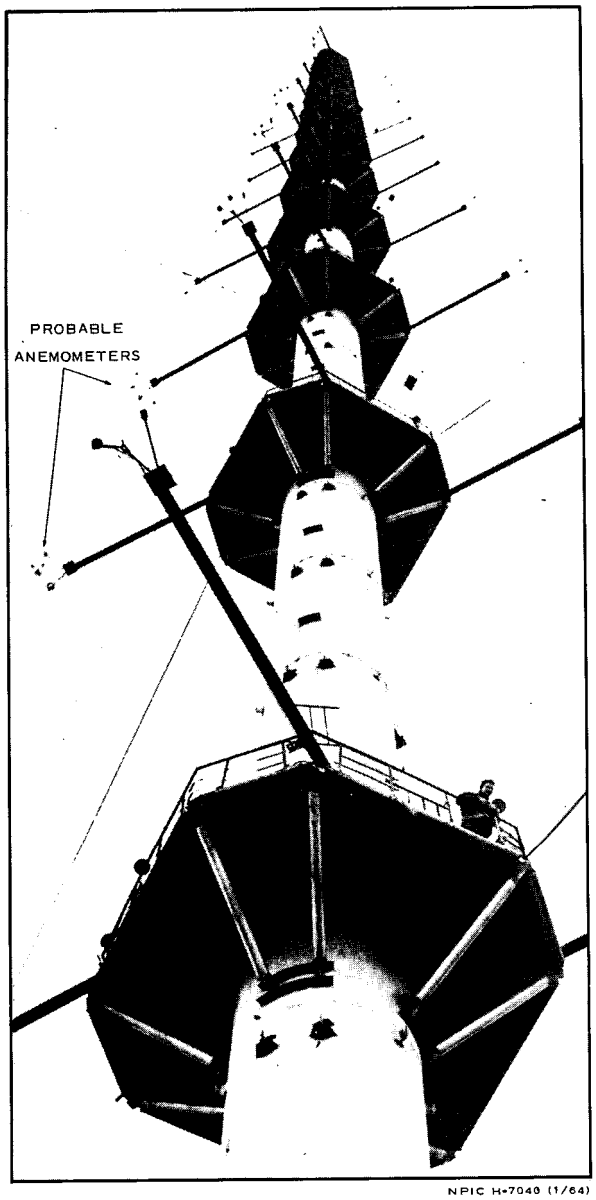

FIGURE 3. GROUND PHOTOGRAPH OF METEOROLOGICAL TOWER, 1960.

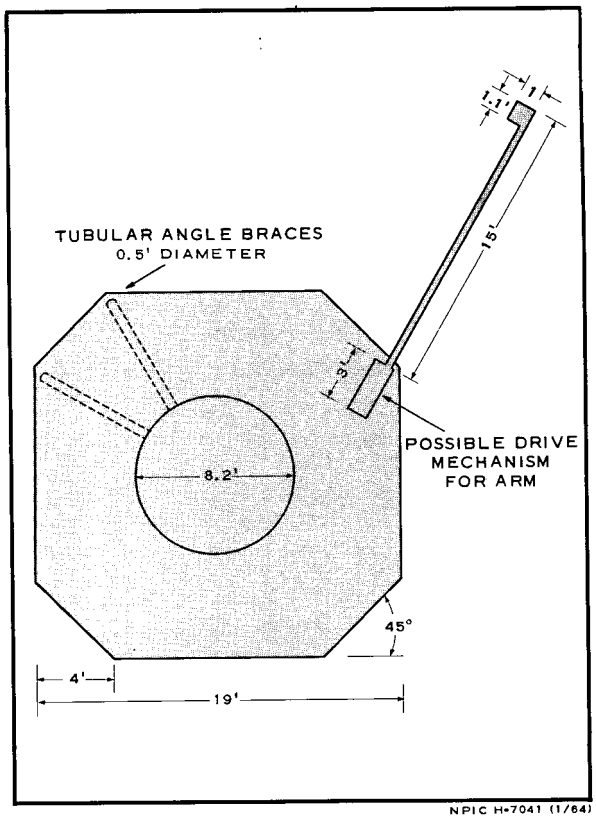

FIGURE 4. PLAN VIEW OF METEOROLOGICAL TOWER PLATFORM.

Measurements made on available photography generally corroborate the stated height of the tower as about [redacted] It is not possible to verify the diameter, but [redacted] is a reasonable measurement. Figure 4 shows the significant dimensions of the tower platforms and instrument arms. These measurements were made on the basis of the assumed diameter of [redacted]

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25X1D

REFERENCES

PHOTOGRAPHY

25X1D

Mission	Date	Pass	Camera	Frame	Classification
[redacted]					TOP SECRET RUFF

Ground photographs from Soviet publication Soviet Union, No 130, 1960 (UNCLASSIFIED)

MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC. US Air Target Mosaic, Series 50, Sheet 0167-9/3MA, 1st ed, Jan 59, scale 1:50,000 (SECRET)
ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0167-9A, 1st ed, Jan 59, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

DOCUMENT

1. USSR. Pravda*, Moscow, 7 Jul 60 (UNCLASSIFIED)

REQUIREMENT

CIA. C-SI3-80,731

NPIC PROJECT

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*Translated in US Department of Commerce PB 131632-130, Information on Soviet Bloc International Geophysical Cooperation - 1960, 5 Aug 60 (UNCLASSIFIED).

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